

# The Visitor



## Senior Pastor

Rev. William Mudge 315-292-0850

## Congregational Care & Family Ministries

Rev. Jeff Hodge 315-383-4384

## Administrative Pastor

Rev. Susan Ranous 315-445-1045

## Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Gordon Knapp 315-200-1250

## Music Director

Dan Williams 315-406-0232

## Secretary

Lisa Kane 315-635-6442

## Bookkeeper

Rod Porter 315-247-7426

## Treasurer

George Ramseyer 315-638-8177

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Church Office: 315-635-6442

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## Normal Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 am-2:00 pm

E-mail: [secretary@bvillefirstumc.org](mailto:secretary@bvillefirstumc.org)

Website: [www.bvillefirstumc.org](http://www.bvillefirstumc.org)

## PLEASE NOTE:

Articles for the **MARCH**  
must be submitted to the church office  
by **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

[Church Calendar](#)



## From the Pastor's Desk

### *"A Sheepdogs Tale"*

**"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>1</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:11-17 NRSV**

Time moves very fast! It seems like yesterday we were taking down our Christmas decorations (I think there is still a wreath hanging up somewhere around here), and now we are preparing to celebrate Ash Wednesday and move into the season of Lent!

I toyed with a message about Leap Year for this newsletter space, something about inviting you to "leap" into the season of Lent. When I looked again at the calendar, I was struck by Ash Wednesday's date – February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Day. What a perfect illustration of the gift of God and God's invitation to us this Lenten journey.

I couldn't resist the opportunity to remind you of the message of the most memorized scripture in the Bible, John 3:16. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."** I have heard several preachers posit that the Gospel message is summed up in this beloved verse! God loves us! If you add verse 17, John reminds us that in God's amazing love, God sent his son to rescue us. **"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."** Happy Valentine's Day beloved! Why don't you plan now to come and join us in this Lenten journey wrapped up in God's Love?

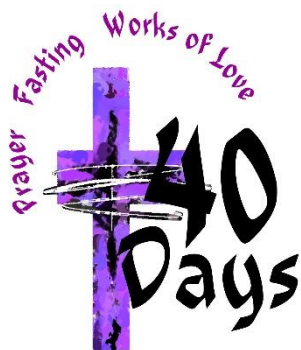
Come and join us for worship at 9am Sunday morning for our Heritage worship service featuring our choir and familiar hymns. If you are unable to join us in person, we are livestreaming our worship services on YouTube and Facebook. Plan to come and join us – we'll save you a seat!

Serving Christ with You,  
Pastor Bill Mudge

# CONGREGATIONAL CARE & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Rev. Jeff Hodge

February 2024



## Take advantage of the extra opportunities for worship, study & reflection during Lent

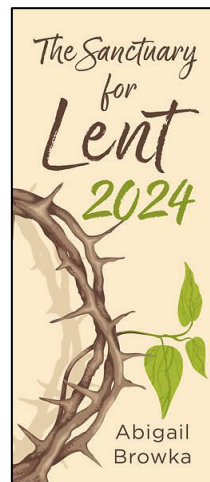
Lent offers us an opportunity for self-reflection and examination. That might sound like a heavy-duty assignment, but we are invited at every age to think about How God is at work in our lives and how God's love for us changes us. Take advantage of the extra opportunities offered to help us look deeper and go deeper in our faith during this Lenten Season.

### Lent Study via Zoom: Emily Dickinson & the Poetry of Lent

For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, we will offer a combined church study for Lent via Zoom. The class is free, but registration is needed to get the Zoom link.

**We will meet every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
between February 21 and March 27.**

This year we are using "The Sanctuary for Lent 2024", which is written by Abigail Browka, a United Methodist pastor in the Upper New York Annual Conference. Books are available in the office.



**Of Continued Concern:**

Dave Horan, Elijah Huling, Pat Kline,  
Jim Larmondra, Janet McIntosh,  
Ron Waterbury, Robert Yeddo

**Friends & Neighbors:**

**Liz & Jim Bartholomew, Aunt & Uncle of  
Barb Stowe & Sue Vanderveer**

Francis Bliven, Julia Bliven's husband  
Larry Disotell, friend of Pam Fallesen  
Carolyn Dixon  
Emily Gibbs

Richard Greer, Dave Greer's brother  
William Hobart, friend of the Kisselsteins  
Craig Hodge, Pastor Jeff's brother  
John Hughes, Joyce Wilkinson's brother  
Dana Kaiser, Donna Foster's son

**Rudy Kline (VA-ICU), Pat Kline's husband**  
(church office has been informed that Rudy is home)

Roberta Maxwell,  
sister-in-law of Patty & Rocky  
Blakely Nowicki, Kisselstein family  
Zachary Thomas, grandson of Mary Thomas  
Lisa Wilson & family, Judy Herbs' niece  
Ruby VanDuser, friend of Suzanne Ellis  
Isobella Vecchio, friend of Ron Waterbury

**Pray for our Service Men & Women:**

Holly Abbott, Jeff Coover, Brian Cunningham,  
Casey DeLapp, James Scott Gibbs,  
Casey Hargrave, Jeffrey Lucy, Dr. Kristen Lucy,  
Jeffrey Meany, Brandon Merle,  
Benjamin Nordmark, Tyler Reynolds, Peter Slye,  
Richard Slye



**Sympathy to:**

Helen Stafford & family on the passing of  
her husband, Richard Stafford

Floyd VanWie & family on the passing of  
his wife, Kathleen VanWie

**Remember Those at Home and at Care Facilities:**

*Joan Foster*

Bill Barrett – Loretto-Cunningham #504  
Charles Bordwell – Brookdale #53  
Sharyn Brown – Sedgwick Heights #344  
Gertrude Collins – Loretto-Cunningham #936  
Marjorie Dence – McHarrie Pointe #513  
Judy Herbs – Elderwood #225D  
Barbara Johnston – Van Duyn #457  
Mildred Long – Syracuse Home #122  
Ernestine Parry – Syracuse Home #107  
Mary Eleanor Slye – McHarrie Pointe #401

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**A Thank You**

From the family of Richard Stafford:  
We want to thank our wonderful church  
family for your cards, kind words, and  
support during these last seven difficult  
months.  
Helen, Scott, Jennifer, Heather

## S.A.M.A.S.A.N. in February

"Fun Games with Friends" on Saturday, February 17, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We will have a variety of group games to encourage the warmth of fellowship and take the chill out of February. Beverages will be provided. We ask that you please bring a snack item to contribute to a variety trail mix bowl. Examples: small crackers, pretzels, nuts, raisins, dried fruit, M&M candies, or something you see that looks good. ***Just no potato chips, please.*** Please let me know if you plan on attending. Sharon Cook 315.751.1550

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## Church Giving

If you are not in church, you can continue supporting our church using automatic payments on your on-line bank account or the church's on-line payment system.

Using your bank's on-line bill payment feature, you can set up an automatic payment where your bank sends a check to the church. You control the frequency and amount of the payment. Simply use Baldwinsville First United Methodist Church, 17 W. Genesee Street, Baldwinsville NY 13027, indicate the amount and frequency of payment. Most banks do not charge you any additional cost for this feature.

The church also has an on-line payment system thru VANCO. Go to the on-line church's website [www. https://www.bvillefirstumc.org](https://www.bvillefirstumc.org) and on the right-side column press 'Online Giving – Make a Donation'. You set up your account and make your donation to the general fund or other areas listed. You will go to a screen where you can enter the amount, frequency of payment and if you want to pay using a bank account or credit card. You will have the option to offset the charge the church incurs for this system.

If you prefer to use a mobile device (cell phone), use the following QR code and it will take you to the on-line payment system from VANCO. Follow the same procedure to set up your contribution as the on-line system. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z7C7/home>



For more information, contact Rod Porter, Bookkeeper (315) 247-7426 or Rocky Maxwell, Chair of Finance Committee (315) 488-5700. Thank you for supporting our church.



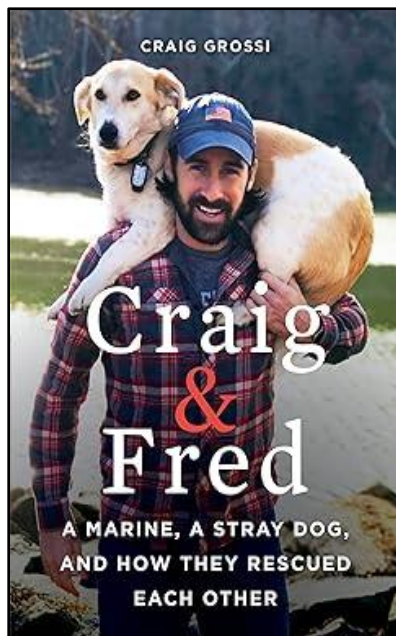
## **FEBRUARY** *Birthdays*

02/01 Jim Sollecito  
 02/04 Rudy Kline  
 02/05 Pastor Bill Mudge  
         Norma Widmann  
 02/06 Kyle McCaleb  
         Zach McCaleb

02/06 Joan Foster  
         Gwen Sacia  
         Raymond Honicker  
 02/08 Taylor Hoffman  
 02/10 Chris Picco  
 02/12 Susan Monroe  
         Judy Gilbert  
 02/13 Gavin Crippen  
         Jennie Austin  
         Elaine Habelt

02/14 Greg Johnson  
 02/15 Evelyn Abbott  
         Calleigh Lockwood  
 02/18 Bryanne Reynolds  
 02/20 Reta Read  
         Julia Bliven  
 02/21 Jude Burke  
 02/26 Kevin Lawrence  
 02/28 David Malcolm

### **Eureka! Book Club** **(Zoom)** **Tuesday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m.**



February's book selection is "Craig and Fred" by Craig Grossi (available in hard copy at BPL or on Hoopla as well as in a variety of formats including audio and eBook through online sources)

The discussion will be led by Ron Waterbury. Also be on the lookout for further details from Pastor Jeff pending our January meeting.

Craig Grossi is an eight-year Marine Corps veteran and a recipient of the Purple Heart. After returning from Afghanistan, he worked for the Defense Intelligence Agency and attended Georgetown University. When not travelling with Fred, he works intensively with veteran organizations, including the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program and the Tragedy Assistance Programs for Survivors (TAPS). He and Fred live in Washington, DC. You can find them online at [www.fredtheafghan.com](http://www.fredtheafghan.com).